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SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION

SPAZ
HARRIS
RAY
2000

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his smelly factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!



SEVERAL LEAGUES OUTSIDE THE FABLED HIDDEN CITY OF THE ANCIENTS--

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA

MENACE TO SOCIETY

A TALE OF TURMOIL BROUGHT TO YOU BY
BOLLERS | BUTLER | EKLUND
POWELL | GAGLIARDO | GABRIE
GORELICK and GOLDWATER



--EXPLORES THE MYSTIC RUINS--

--ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMNANTS OF AN ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION LONG SINCE VANISHED

IMAGINE, THEN, THE YOUNG GUARDIAN'S SURPRISE--



--AT WHAT HE THERE DISCOVERS!

IT'S THE EGGMAN HIMSELF--

--DOCTOR ROBOTNIK. HE'S BEEN HIT HARD--

--KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!



I WONDER WHO DID THIS? AN EVEN BETTER QUESTION IS: DO I FINISH THE JOB...

...AND SO RID THE PLANET OF THE GREATEST EVIL EVER TO WALK ITS FACE?

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**MEANWHILE IN
THE HIDDEN CITY...**

**...AT THE LUXURIOUS
STATION SQUARE
HOTEL...**

SO THE GOOD
NEWS IS THAT NOW THE
REST OF YOU FREEDOM
FIGHTERS COULD RELAX
AND TOTALLY CHILL!

SORTA THE WAY
ROBOTNIK'S WATER MONSTER
DID AFTER ME AND KNUCKLES
"MOPPED" UP THE FLOOR
WITH IT!¹

HA! HA!
GOOD ONE,
SONIC!

THANKS,
TAILS-- BUT
NOW... I'VE
GOTTA
BREAK THE
BAD NEWS.

I KINDA
LOST YOUR
BI-PLANE,
BUD, AND I'M
WAY
SORRY...

THANKS,
NATE-- I'M ON IT
LIKE CHILI ON
HOT-DOGS!

COUNT
ME IN!

NEVER FEAR, YOUTHFUL
HEDGEHOG. WHEN I DESIGNED
OUR FOXY FRIEND'S AIR-
CRAFT, I HAD THE FORE-
SIGHT TO INSTALL A
TRACER.

THIS DEVICE WILL
ENABLE YOU TO HOME IN
ON ITS BEACON.

SEVERAL
HEART-
BEATS
LATER...

SONIC--
LOOK OVER
THERE!

IT'S
KNUCKLES--
IS HE--?

WAIT A SEC,
TAILS! I'VE TRADED
BODY BLOWS
WITH KNUX ON MORE
THAN A FEW
OCCASIONS--
BELIEVE ME, HE'S
ONE TOUGH
CUSTOMER!

UNNH...

I WAS
STRUCK BY
... I CAN'T
REMEMBER!

SEE?
YOU OKAY,
RAD RED?

TA-TA!
MISCREANTS! DON'T
WORRY... I'LL
SOON RETURN
TO CRUSH YOU
ALL!

THAT OUGHT
TO JOG YOUR
MEMORY--IT
WAS RO"BU"TT"
NIK!

AFTER
'IM!

NO, WAIT--
IT'S STARTING TO
COME BACK TO ME.
IT WASN'T THAT TIN-
PLATED TYRANT
WHO JUMPED ME.
IT WAS...

--CHAOS!

ROBOTNIK'S WATER MONSTER? YOU MUST BE JOKING, KNUX-- I THOUGHT WE'D SEEN THE LAST OF THAT LIQUEFIED LOSER!

NO SUCH LUCK! AND, EVEN WORSE...

...I'VE GOT A HUNCH THAT TAILS' MISSING BI-PLANE IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO ITS RETURN!

"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!"

WELL, HERE WE ARE! NATE SAID THIS AREA IS CALLED "CAT COUNTRY!"

LOOKS LIKE HE WAS RIGHT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, WH...?

BIG-- MY NAME'S BIG THE CAT...

...AND THIS IS MY FRIEND, FROGGY! DID YOU SEE WHO BONKED ME, FROGGY?

OH NO! MY PLANE --IT'S DESTROYED! BUT--

RIBBIT



--HOW?

LOOK!

EVEN WORSE
--A WATER TWISTER!
HANG ON TIGHT,
DUDES...

A
TWISTER?!

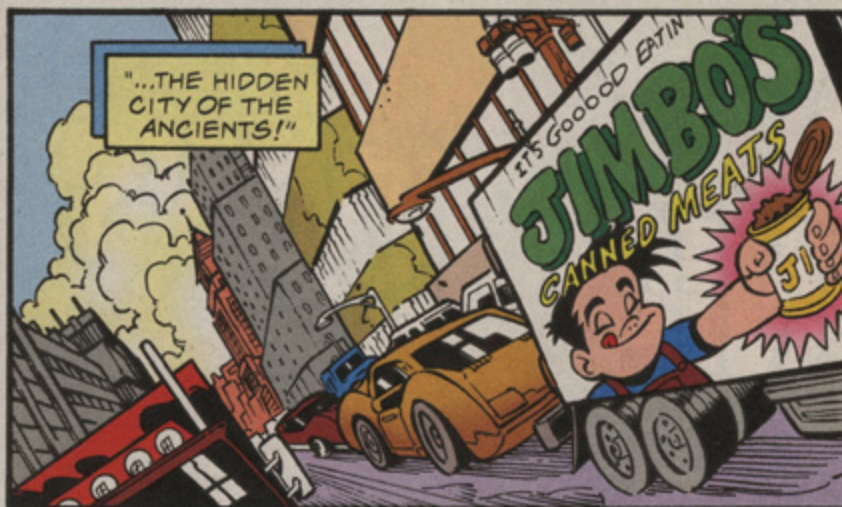
...IT'S
GONNA BE A
WET ONE!

THAT'S NO
NATURAL
TORNADO!

DARN
TOOTIN--THAT
WAS CHAOS!

"NOW IT'S GOT
THE BI-PLANE'S
MEGA-POWER SOURCE
-- THE **SUPER
EMERALD!**"

"AND IT'S HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR..."

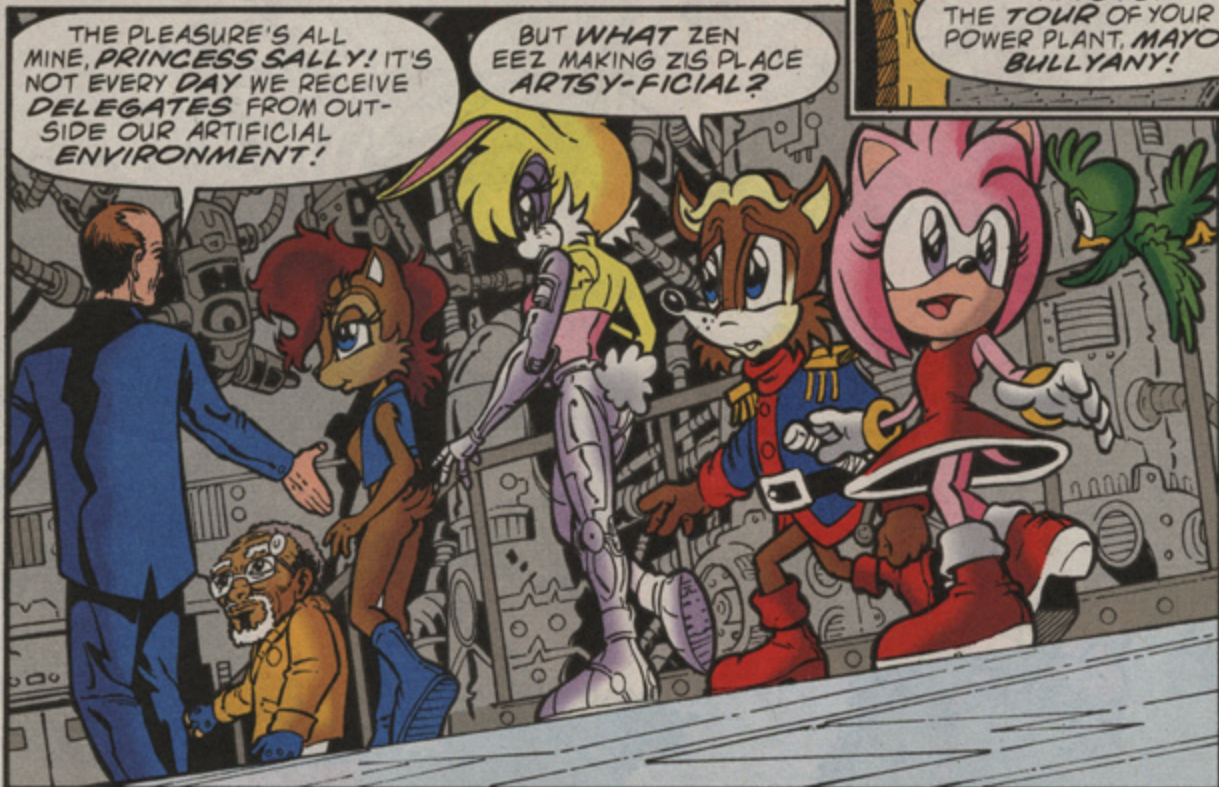


"...THE HIDDEN CITY OF THE ANCIENTS!"

IT'S GOOD EATIN'
JIMBO'S
CANNED MEATS



THANKS FOR
THE TOUR OF YOUR
POWER PLANT, MAYOR
BULLYANY!



THE PLEASURE'S ALL
MINE, **PRINCESS SALLY**! IT'S
NOT EVERY DAY WE RECEIVE
DELEGATES FROM OUT-
SIDE OUR ARTIFICIAL
ENVIRONMENT!

BUT WHAT ZEN
EEZ MAKING ZIS PLACE
ARTSY-FICIAL?

THAT, **ANTOINE**, IS DUE
TO THE **POWER** OF THESE
SIX SUPER EMERALDS KEPT
BEHIND THIS DISPLAY
CASE.

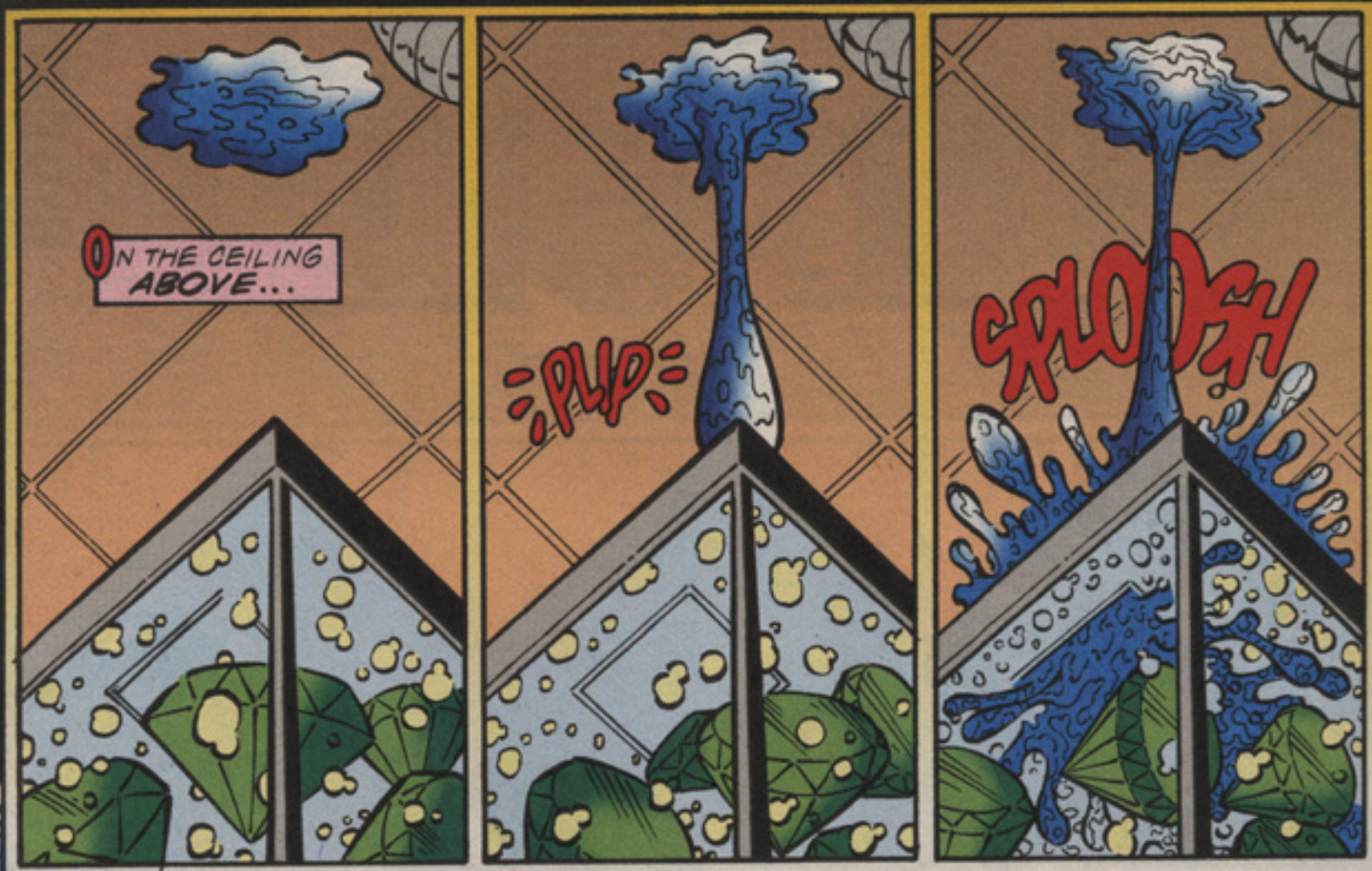
THESE **BEAUTIES** ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERY-
THING HERE RANGING FROM
DAY AND NIGHT TO SUN AND RAIN..
AND WITH CHAOS DEFEATED...



THEY'RE
SAFE AGAIN!



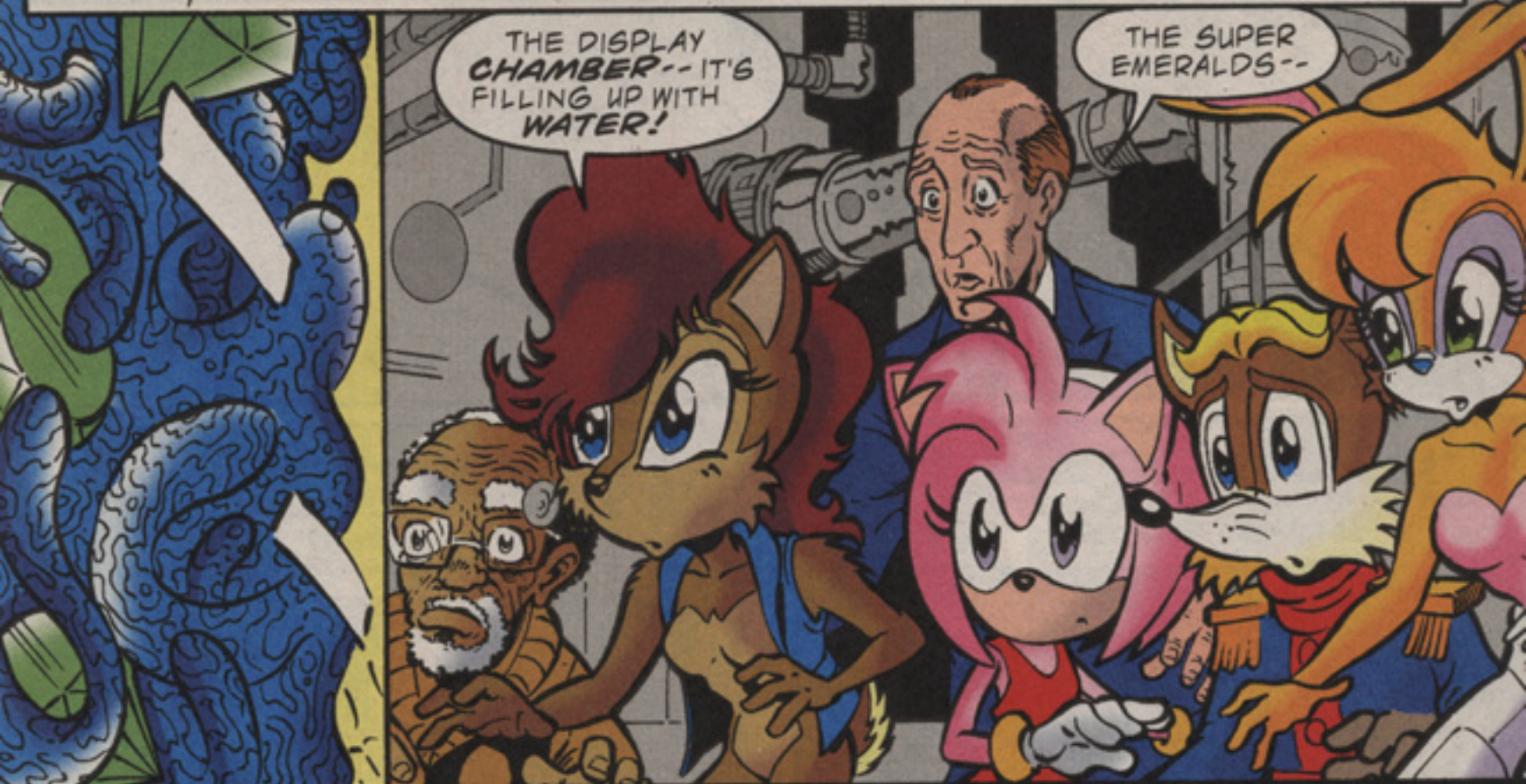
"THANK
GOODNESS!"



ON THE CEILING
ABOVE...

PLIP

SPLOOSH

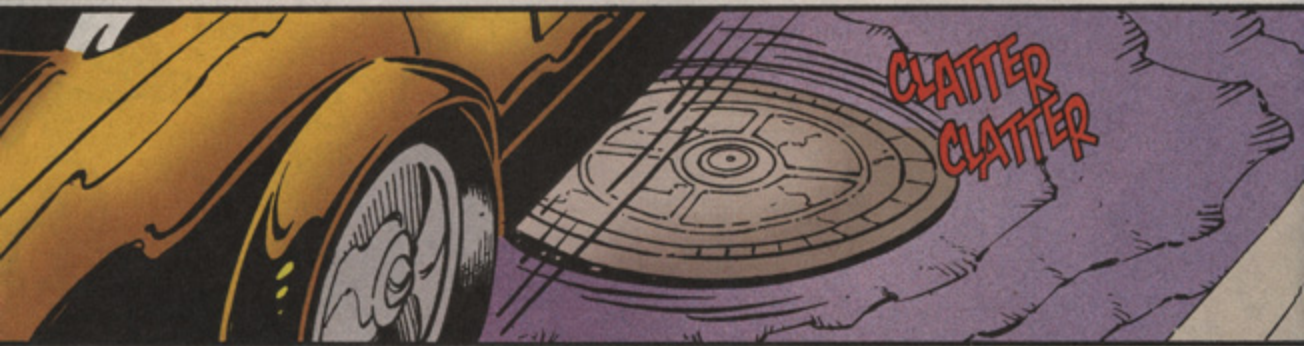
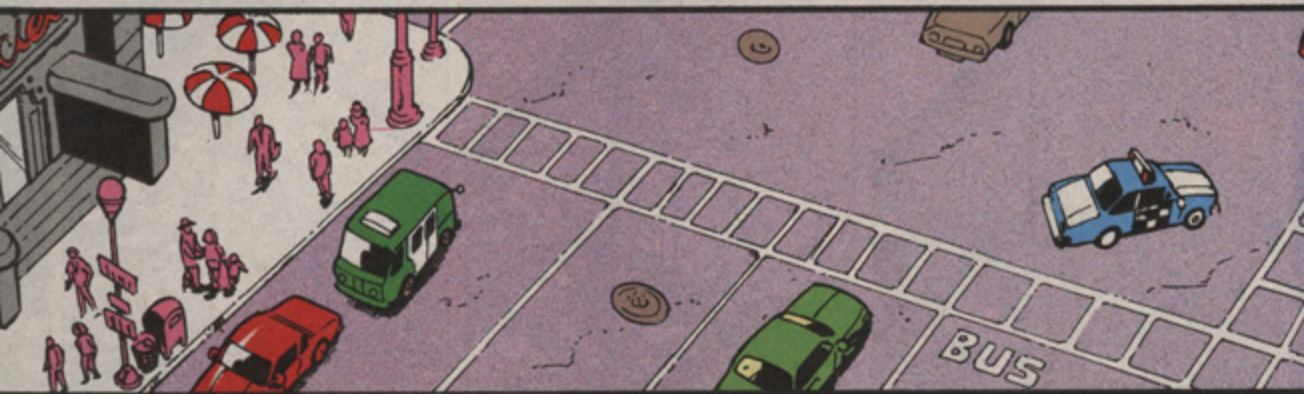


THE DISPLAY
CHAMBER-- IT'S
FILLING UP WITH
WATER!

THE SUPER
EMERALDS--



-- THEY'VE
VANISHED!



--BENEATH
ITS BUSTLING
AVENUES--

SPLOOOSH

--ACROSS ITS
TRAFFIC-FILLED
HIGHWAYS--

KRAKT

SCREEECH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

--AND FROM ITS
TOPMOST
SKYSCRAPERS--

THOOM

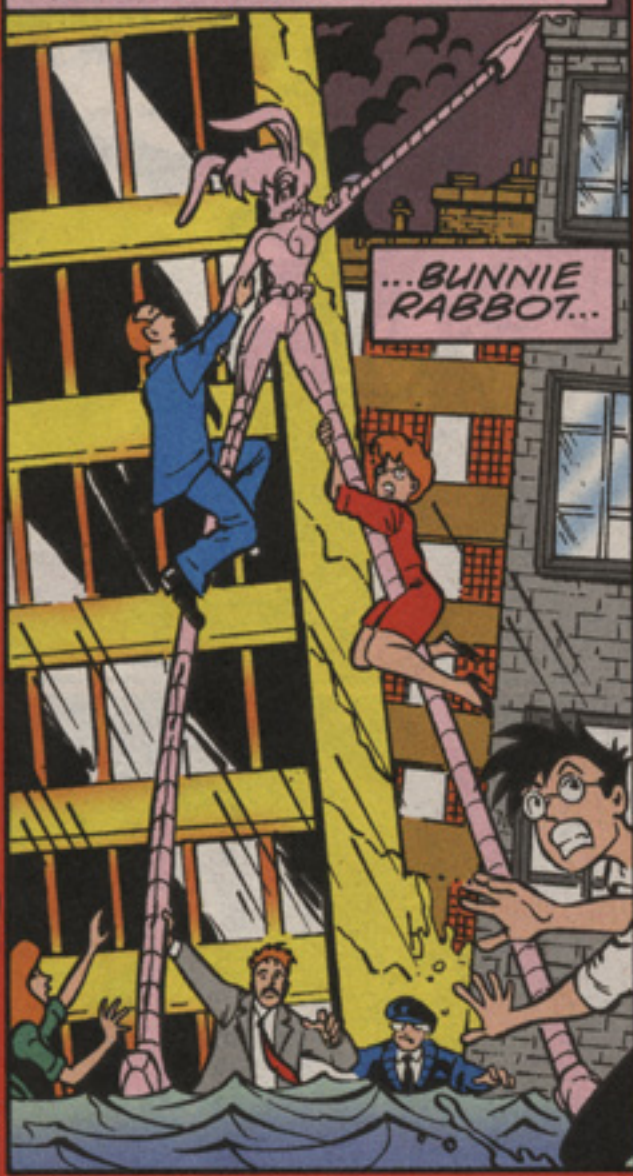
--CHAOS

REIGNS SUPREME--



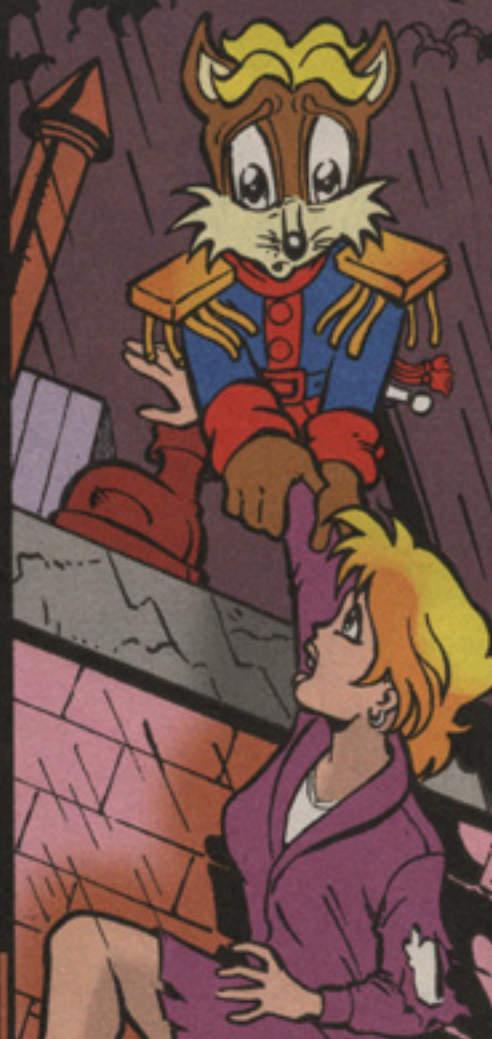
--THREATENING
TO WASH AWAY
THE HIDDEN
CITY!

THE VISITING FREEDOM FIGHTERS IMMEDIATELY GO INTO "RESCUE MODE..."

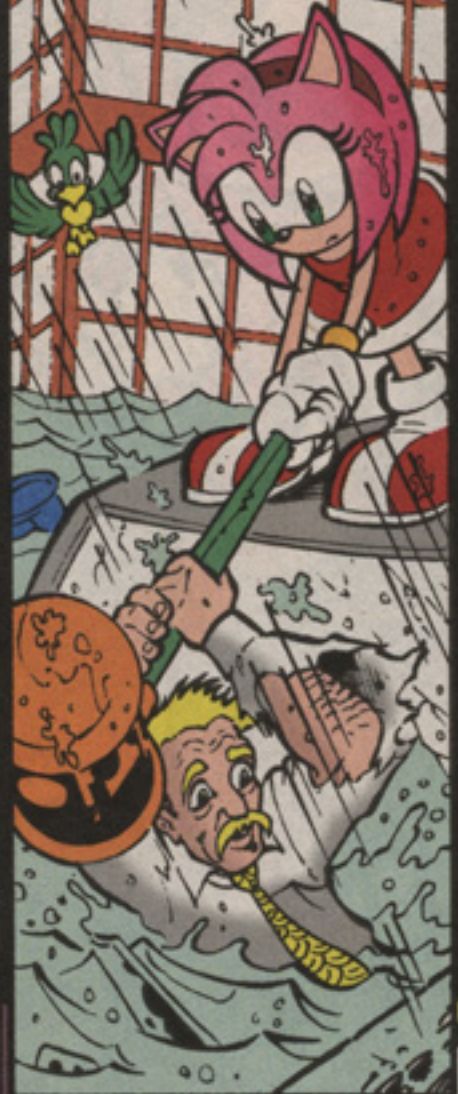


...BUNNIE RABBOT...

...ANTOINE D'COOLETTE...



...AMY ROSE...



...AND EVEN THE ELDERLY NATE MORGAN...



...EACH RESPONDING TO THIS PERILOUS SITUATION WITH A BRAVERY NEVER BEFORE SEEN IN THE LAND.

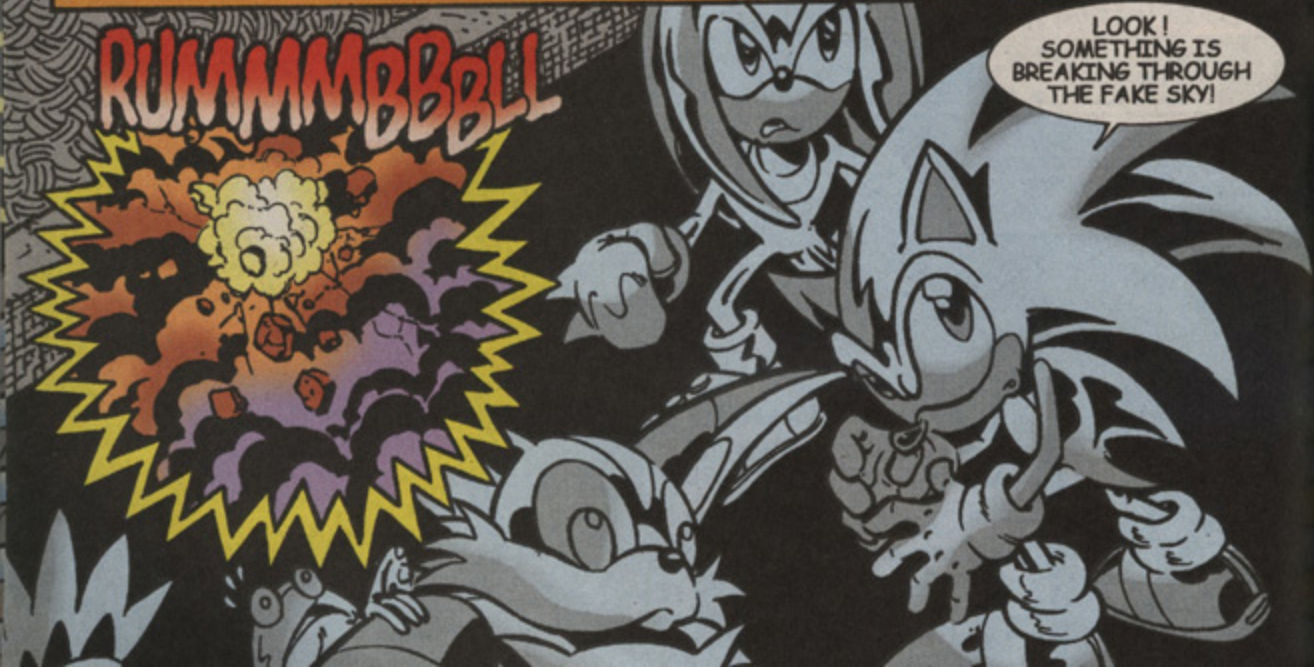
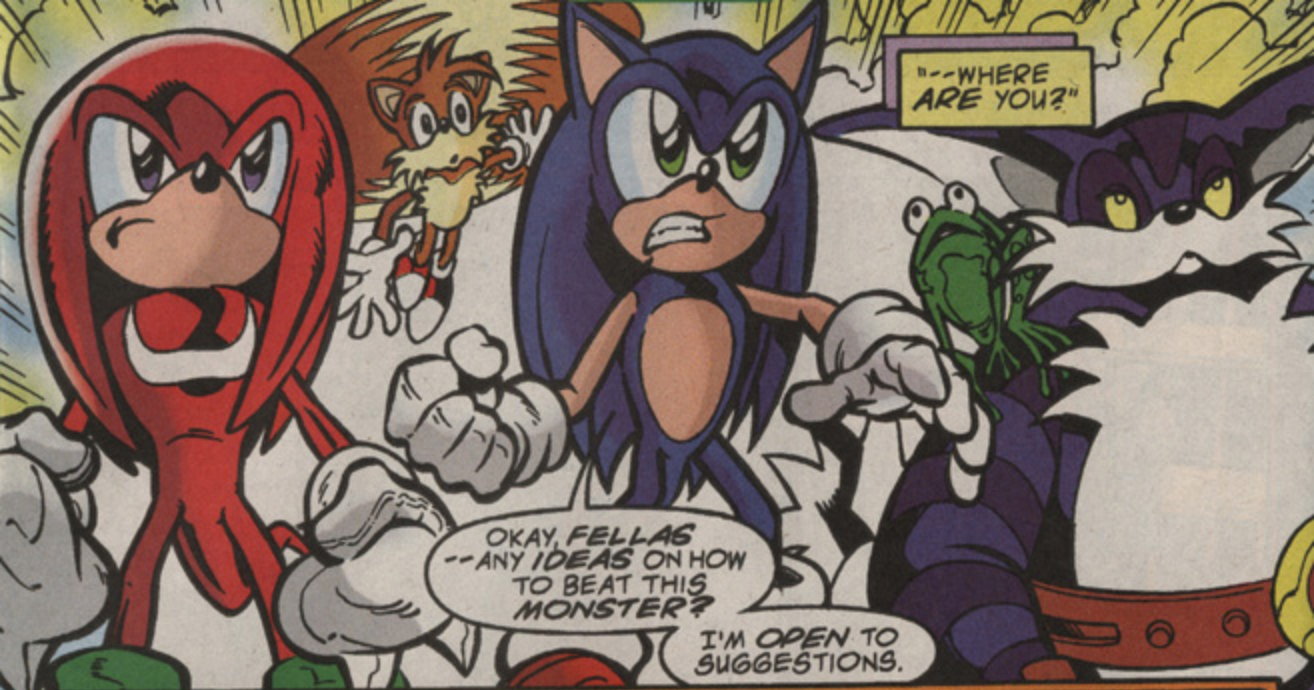
BUT PRINCESS SALLY KNOWS THAT THEIR VALIANT EFFORTS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH!



WHAT ON MOBIUS IS THAT CREATURE? IT SEEMS UNSTOPPABLE!

SONIC--

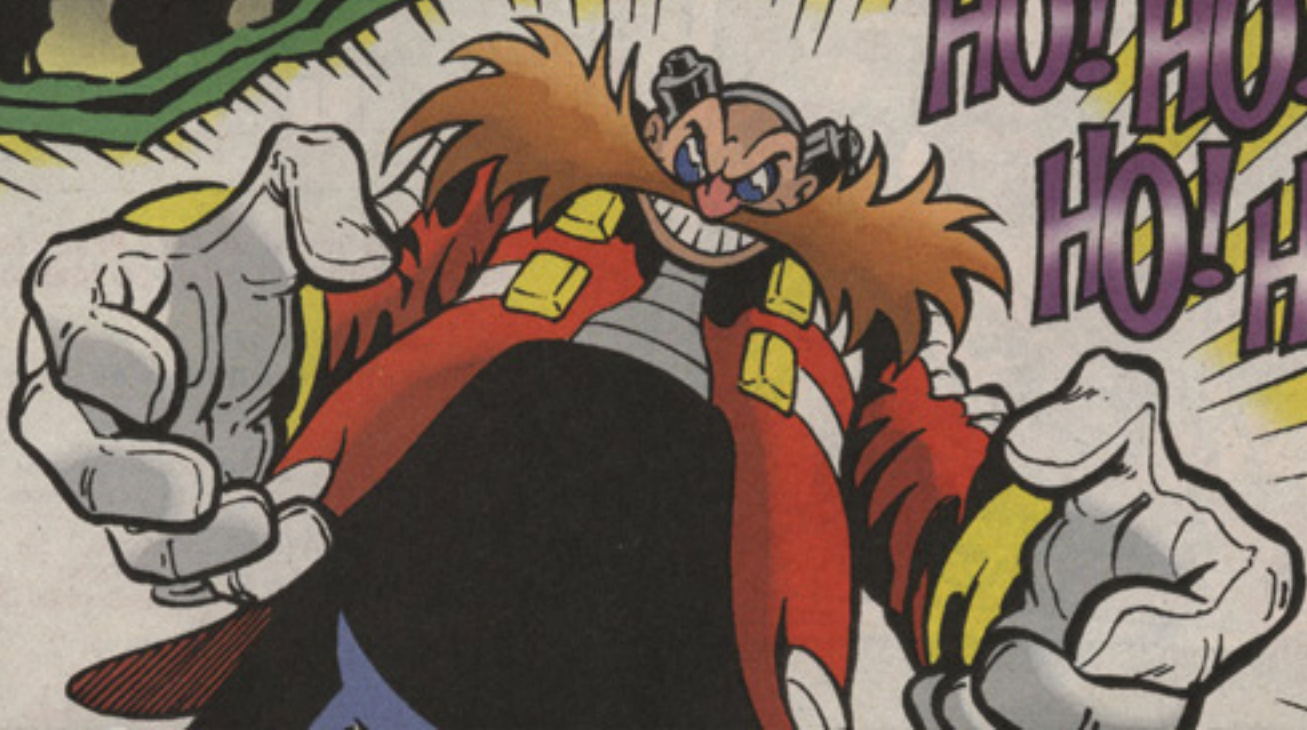




SK-THOOM

IT'S DR. ROBOTNIK

**HO! HO!
HO! HO!**





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I'M
BAAACK!



WHAT IS EGGMAN GOING
TO DO ATOP HIS **EGGSHIP
DESTROYER**? HE
MUST'VE **USED** IT TO
BURROW THROUGH THE
MOUNTAIN THAT **LEADS**
HERE!

WE
SHOULD'VE KNOWN
THAT WHEREVER
CHAOS WENT, HE'D
FOLLOW!



BUT AS ROBOTNIK RANTS & RAVES
AT HIS FORMER PET, HE REALIZES JUST
HOW "FORMER" THAT RELATIONSHIP IS--

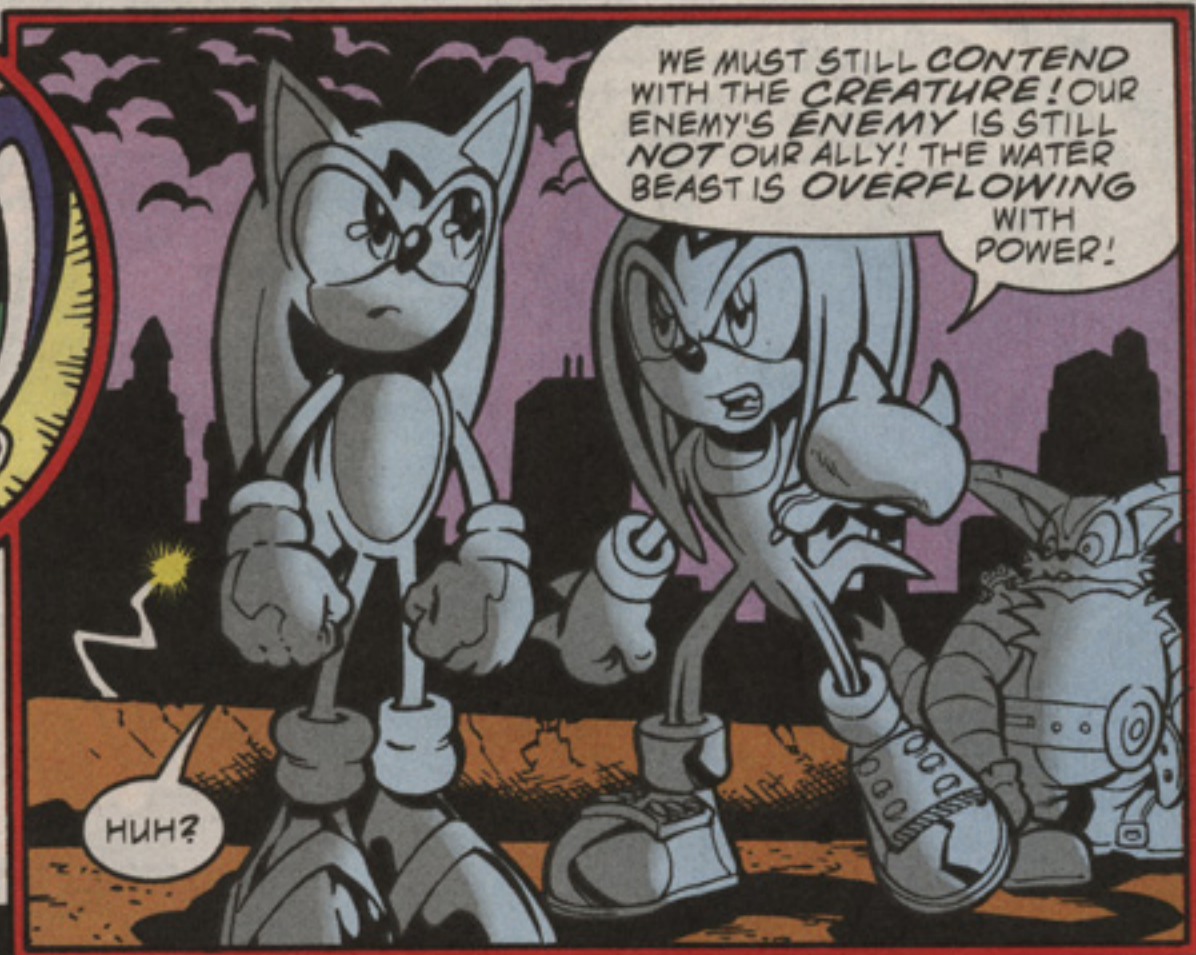
--THE HARD
WAY!

SHLURP-
THOOM!

NOOOOOO!

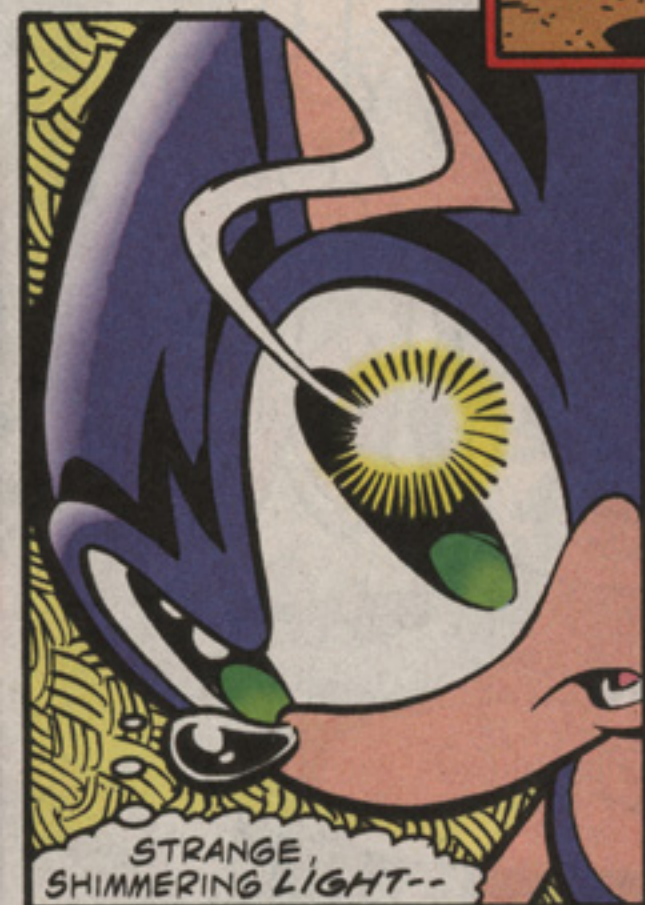


PERFECT
CHAOS T.K.O'D²
THE EGGMAN--
WAY PAST
COOL!



WE MUST STILL CONTEND
WITH THE CREATURE! OUR
ENEMY'S ENEMY IS STILL
NOT OUR ALLY! THE WATER
BEAST IS OVERFLOWING
WITH
POWER!

HUH?



STRANGE,
SHIMMERING LIGHT--

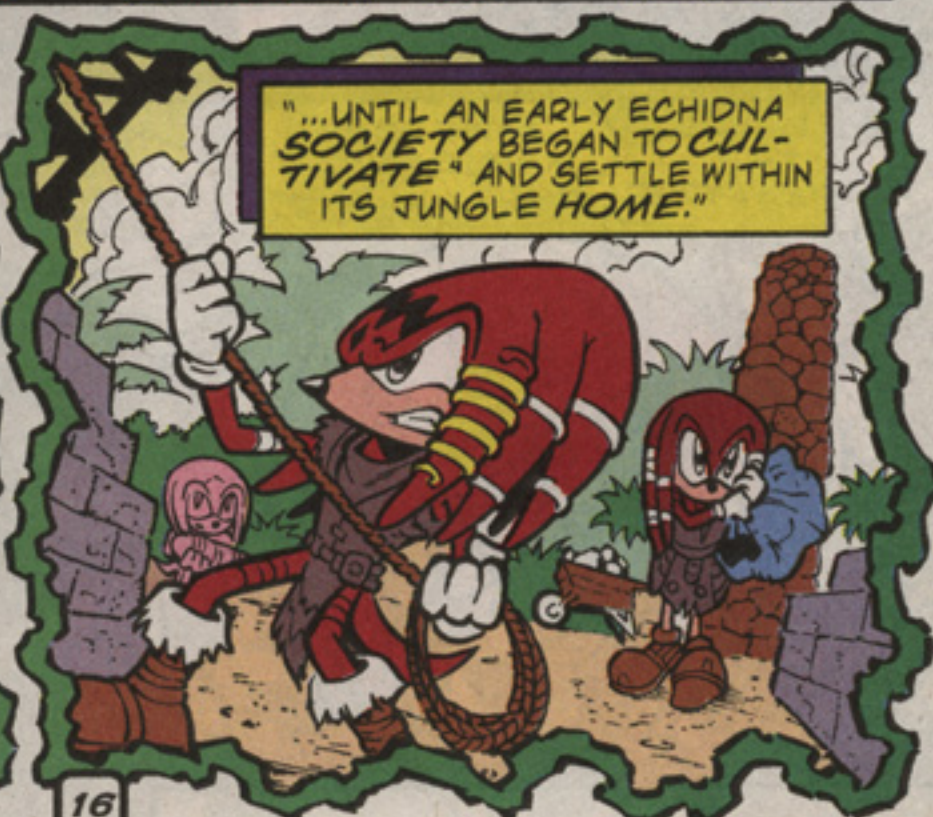


--PLAYING
ME AN IMAGE IN
MY HEAD!

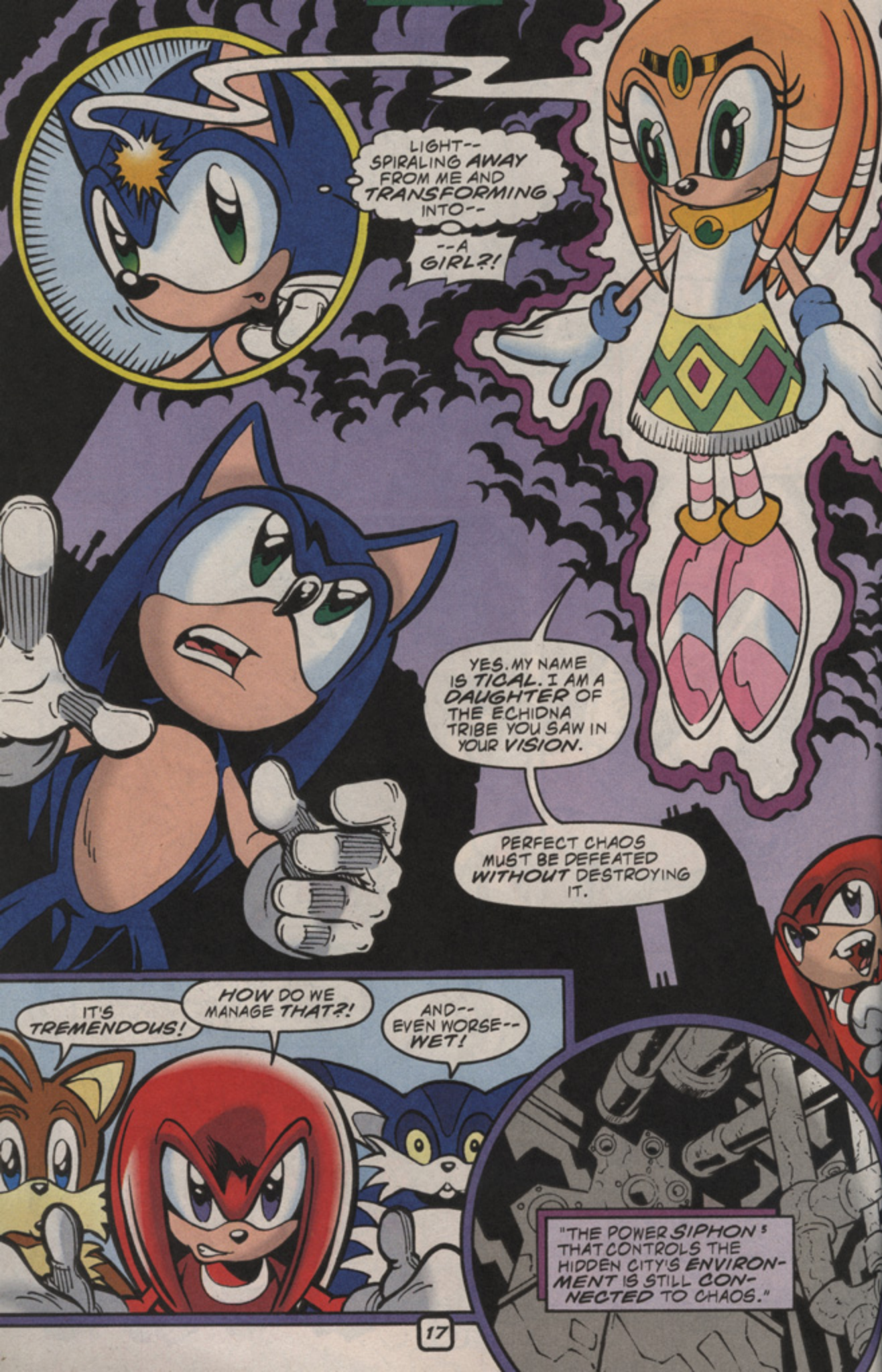


"IT'S CHAOS--IN
ITS NATURAL FORM
CENTURIES AGO!

"HARD TO BELIEVE,
BUT CHAOS WAS ONCE
A PEACEFUL SENTIENT³
BEING...



"...UNTIL AN EARLY ECHIDNA
SOCIETY BEGAN TO CUL-
TIVATE" AND SETTLE WITHIN
ITS JUNGLE HOME."



LIGHT--
SPIRALING AWAY
FROM ME AND
TRANSFORMING
INTO--

--A
GIRL?!

YES. MY NAME
IS TICAL. I AM A
DAUGHTER OF
THE ECHIDNA
TRIBE YOU SAW IN
YOUR VISION.

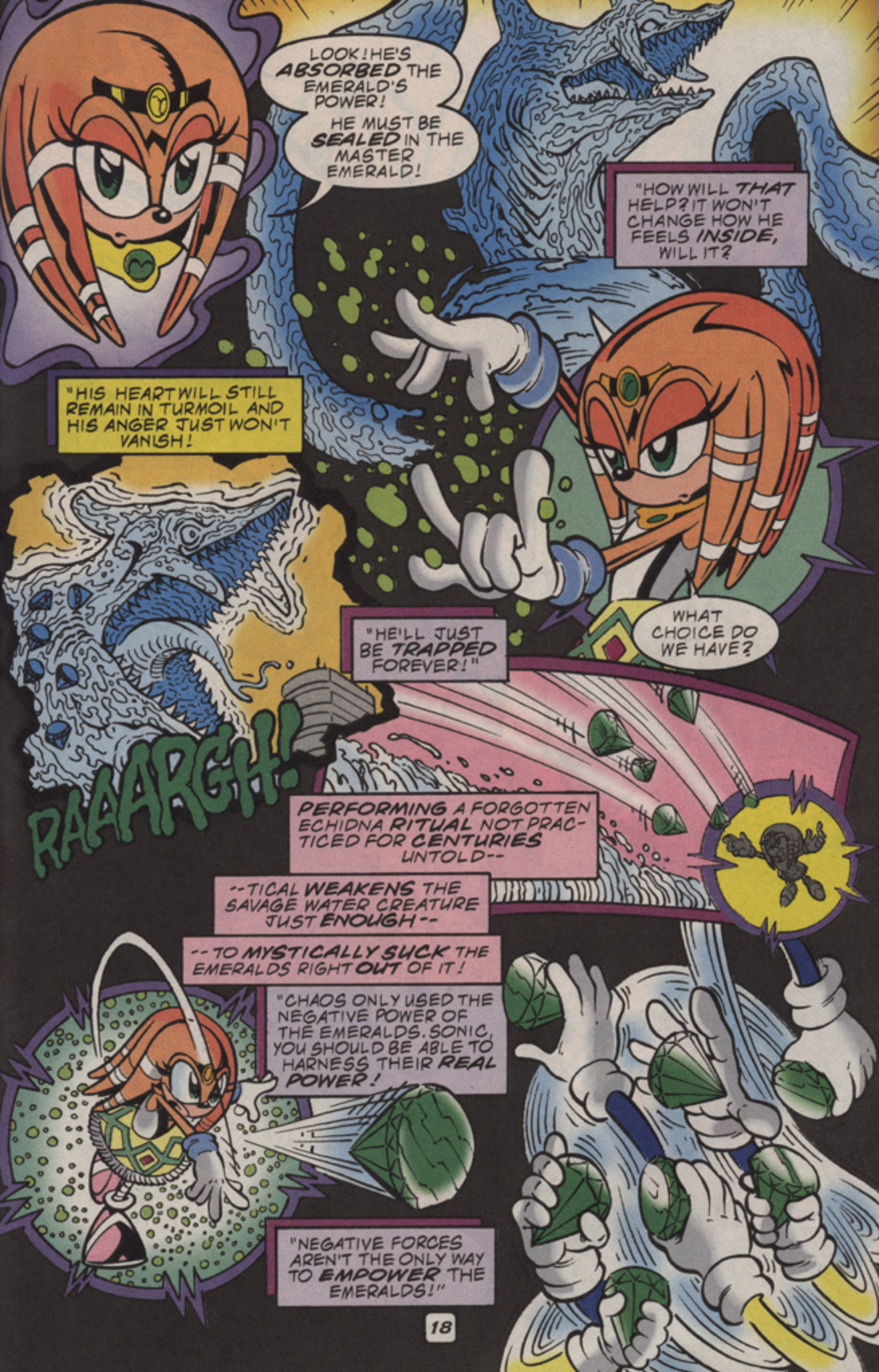
PERFECT CHAOS
MUST BE DEFEATED
WITHOUT DESTROYING
IT.

IT'S
TREMENDOUS!

HOW DO WE
MANAGE THAT?!

AND--
EVEN WORSE--
WET!

"THE POWER SIPHON^s
THAT CONTROLS THE
HIDDEN CITY'S ENVIRON-
MENT IS STILL CON-
NECTED TO CHAOS."



LOOK! HE'S
ABSORBED THE
EMERALD'S
POWER!

HE MUST BE
SEALED IN THE
MASTER
EMERALD!

"HOW WILL **THAT**
HELP? IT WON'T
CHANGE HOW HE
FEELS **INSIDE**,
WILL IT?"

"HIS HEART WILL STILL
REMAIN IN TURMOIL AND
HIS ANGER JUST WON'T
VANISH!"

"HE'LL JUST
BE **TRAPPED**
FOREVER!"

WHAT
CHOICE DO
WE HAVE?"

RAAARGH!

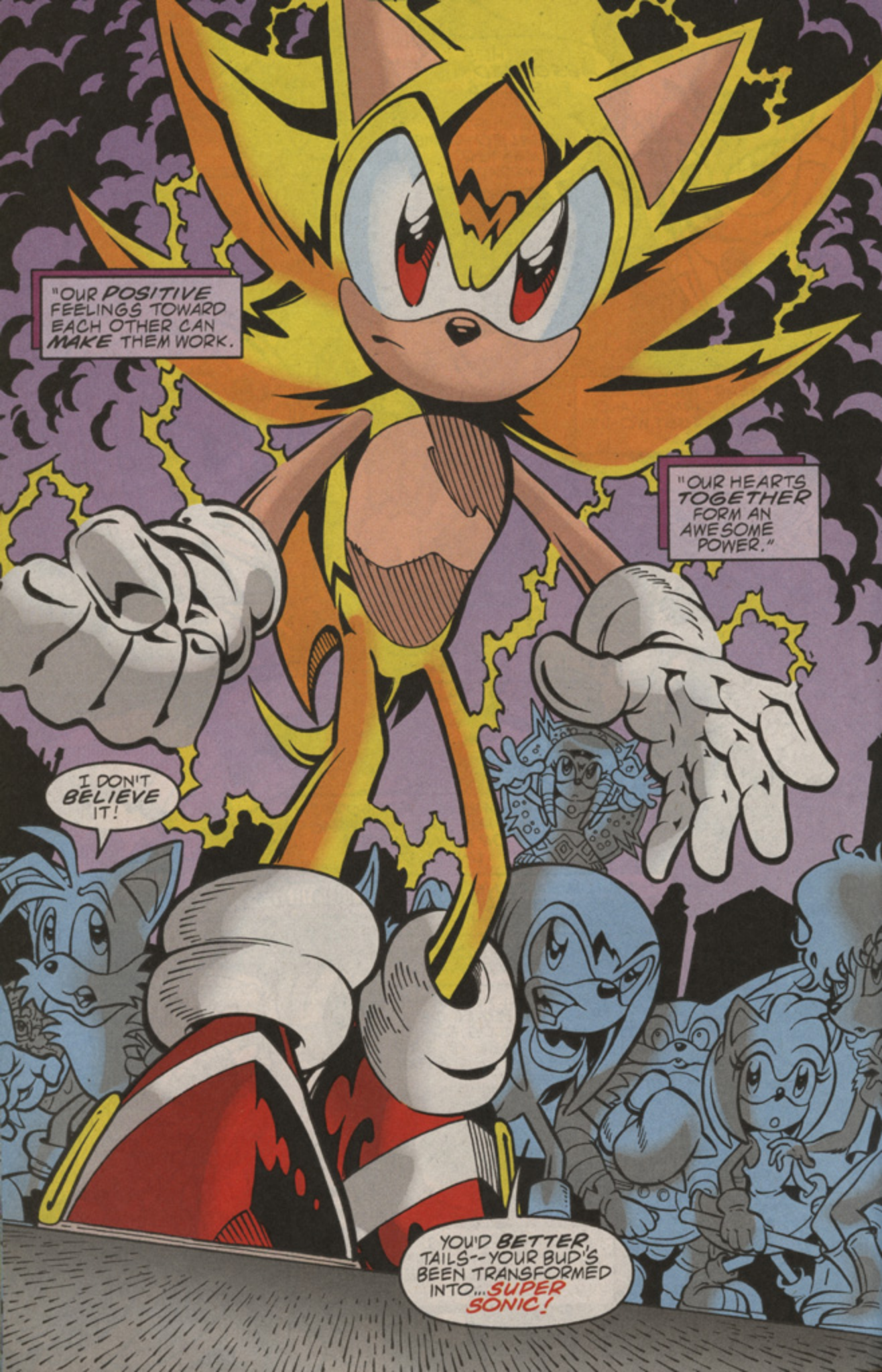
PERFORMING A FORGOTTEN
ECHIDNA RITUAL NOT PRACTICED
FOR CENTURIES
UNTOLD--

--TICAL WEAKENS THE
SAVAGE WATER CREATURE
JUST ENOUGH--

--TO MYSTICALLY SUCK THE
EMERALDS RIGHT OUT OF IT!

"CHAOS ONLY USED THE
NEGATIVE POWER OF
THE EMERALDS. SONIC,
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO
HARNESS THEIR **REAL**
POWER!"

"NEGATIVE FORCES
AREN'T THE ONLY WAY
TO **EMPOWER** THE
EMERALDS!"

A large, glowing Super Sonic stands in the center of the frame, his body radiating intense yellow and orange energy. He has a determined, slightly stern expression. Below him, a crowd of Mobians, including Tails, Knuckles, Amy, and others, look up in shock and awe. The background is a dark, stormy purple with jagged yellow lightning bolts.

"OUR POSITIVE
FEELINGS TOWARD
EACH OTHER CAN
MAKE THEM WORK."

"OUR HEARTS
TOGETHER
FORM AN
AWESOME
POWER."

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!

YOU'D BETTER
TAILS--YOUR BUD'S
BEEN TRANSFORMED
INTO...**SUPER
SONIC!**

STAY BACK,
EVERYBODY--I'LL
HANDLE THIS!

OKAY, HOLY!
YOU WANTED A
FIGHT--

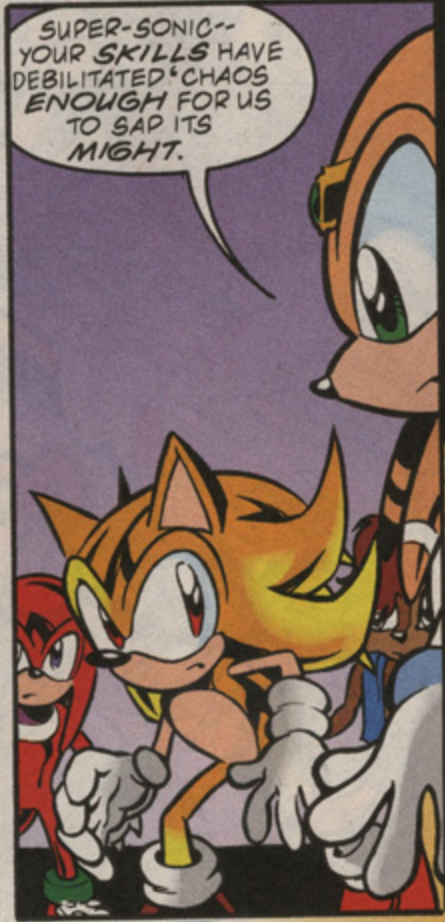
--YOU'VE
GOT ONE!

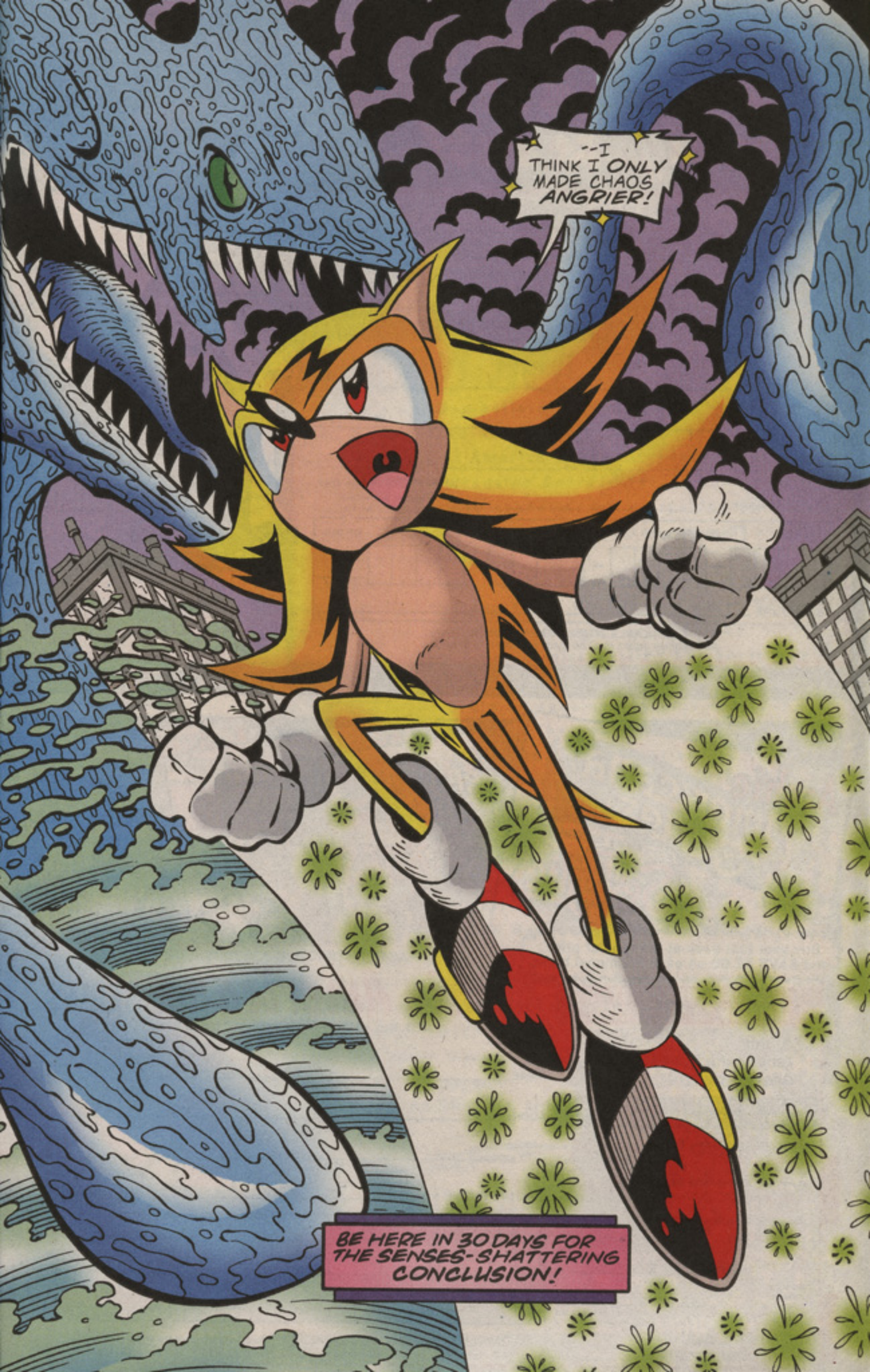
SPLISH

UNGH! THESE
RAGING RIPTIDES
INSIDE OF CHAOS
ARE NO JOKE!

TIME FOR
THE OL' HEDGEHOG
TO WHIP UP A
WHIRLPOOL--

"...AND PUT A TOTALLY
NEW SPIN ON THE
SITUATION!"





--I
THINK I ONLY
MADE CHAOS
ANGRIER!

BE HERE IN 30 DAYS FOR
THE SENSES-SHATTERING
CONCLUSION!

SONIC-GRAMS



OFF PANEL

by Gallagher, Manak & Amash

THIS JUST IN! J.F. GABRIE EDITOR

What's up, Hog-believers? As the Off-Panel above suggests, I am indeed on the west coast... as a new employee for Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc. My official job title is Senior Licensing Coordinator. In that position, I'm responsible for art approvals on everything (T-Shirts, toys, posters, you-name-it) Sonic-related, as well as other Sega-owned properties.

I can't tell you what a move that was. It all happened during Holiday 1999. My life had never been so chaotic (no pun intended)! Though I relished the opportunity, I knew I would miss editing the Sonic line of books for Archie Comics. To my surprise, both Archie and Sega wanted yours truly to continue to edit the Blue Blur's adventures well into the new millennium. How could I pass the chance to head into new frontiers while still doing what I love (putting this book out month after month for you to read)!!?

And wait 'til you experience what the Sonic stable has in store for you in the coming months. We're set to whet your appetite for more action & excitement than you can shake Antoine at. All this as we gear toward the 100th issue of Sonic The Hedgehog! It's a milestone you won't want to miss!

The bottom line is that J.F. Gabriele may no longer be an Archie staff editor/art director anymore... but I'm still your Sonic editor/art director for many issues to come!

Catch you on the flip side!

J.F.

Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

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SONIC-GRAMS
#83

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Footnote References:

"Menace to Society"

- 1) See Sonic Super Special #13.
- 2) TKO'd- meaning Technical Knockdown in the past tense.
- 3) Sentient- meaning alive and thinking.
- 4) Referring to the Knuckles Warrior Clan that split off from those who founded The Floating Island.
- 5) Power Siphon- equipment used to suck the energies from a source.

Check out fans' response to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG issues #78 and 79 and KNUCKLES #32:

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I'm a true blue Sonic fan. I've been collecting since issue #14 and enjoy reading it more than any other. I'm really glad Sonic's still around, because it seems like everyone's forgotten him. SONIC THE HEDGEHOG and KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA are definitely two of the best comics around. I read issue #78 and can't wait for #79 and the "SONIC ADVENTURE" adaptation. Oh yeah...let's see more of Sonic and Tails together/one-on-one, okay? Keep up the good work!

Nathaniel Hulsizer
Meridian, ID

You like hedgehogs, you say? and red echidnas, too? Well, as you can tell from this issue, Nathaniel, KNUCKLES has become an ongoing feature in SONIC. Two cool heroes for one cool price...and you can expect to see Sonic and Tails team up to fight an old enemy in an upcoming two-parter. See you there!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

Well, I will begin by saying your 79th issue was great. I think "SONIC ADVENTURE" will be the best adaptation yet. I want to congratulate you on your work over the years. I have been a Sonic fan my whole life. When I was about nine, I found a SONIC comic on the shelf and immediately bought it. I have almost every issue from #0-#79, including most of the SPECIALS. I just wanted to say that I think the storyline has improved greatly over the years. Now, instead of each book having its own story, the series has become one continuous story that links each issue to the other. This makes me look forward to each month all the more. Keep up the good work!

Gregory Daniel
Portland, OR

We intend to, Gregory, and we're glad you're enjoying the

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Next issue: #84, THE OFFICIAL GAME ADAPTATION OF THE NEW SEGA DREAMCAST'S "SONIC ADVENTURE" continues!



slightly more episodic story format we've been running with since issue #75!

Dear Archie:

What in the world is going on????!! You're stopping KNUCKLES?!? I've been reading since issue #1 and it is my favorite comic, even more so than SONIC THE HEDGEHOG! Its storyline can't beat it, nor can its characters! So, I have only two things to ask: 1) Why?!? You've come this far, what happened to cause this?!? and 2) How do we get KNUCKLES back in his own comic?!? So, for now, the two things I wait for are Queen Alicia's return, and now Knuckles' return to his rightful place. God save the Queen and long live Sir Knuckles!!

Nax
(age 14)
Oklahoma City, OK

1) Believe it or not, faithful Nax, KNUCKLES was suffering from poor sales, but don't fear-- Knuckles won't be suffering from a lack of exposure in any upcoming issues of SONIC. 2) If enough readers write in and demand its return, then it's very possible...but in the meanwhile, you'll have to settle for Queen Alicia's return instead!

Dear SONIC and KNUCKLES directors,

I noticed that I can't get a KNUCKLES subscription anymore. I haven't heard anything about you cancelling it. If you are, it makes me sort of mad. I was about ready to get a subscription, too. If you could clarify this, it would be much appreciated. Oh, and if it's not cancelled, I'm way past sorry. Keep up the good work (even if it might only be on SONIC)!

Joel Johnson
(age 13)
Maine, NY

We're sorry to say it, but KNUCKLES ended its exciting run with issue #32, but don't worry, Joel-- Knuckles won't disappear from these pages!

Dear Sonic-Grams,

I just read SONIC #79, and I'd be lying if I said it stunk. I haven't seen better cover art since issue #62 (I've been collecting since #54)! The picture in this issue's "This Just In" is

way past cool! What is Sonic's real name?

Eric "Sonic" Horton
(age 10)
Rogers, AZ

Only Sonic's middle name was revealed to Knuckles by Sonic's dad in issue #52, Eric-- it's "Maurice."

Dear Knuckles,

When I look at the Overlanders, I feel embarrassed on behalf of the human race. I think the only thing they were destroying was themselves. Killing for food is one thing. Killing for sport, that's different. Hunter should know better than to go gunning for a warrior such as yourself. Instead, he killed your childhood bully, and must now atone for his evils in a submerged prison pod.

William Crowe
(age 21)
Elkhart County, IN

And we hope that's where he'll stay for a good, long time, William.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

SONIC #79 kicks!!! I just can't wait until issue #80!! I just have two questions: 1) Will there ever be a SONIC #100???? 2) Will Sonic ever marry Sally?! Keep up the good work!!!!!!

Arias Talari
(age 10)
Manchester, NH

1) You think there won't be, Arias????!! 2) Well... sure...some-day...maybe...if he ever pops the question...and if she says, "Yes"...perhaps.

We appreciate your comments on SONIC #78 and #79 and the final KNUCKLES issue. See you in thirty when we review more SONIC #79 plus SONIC #80. And remember..

KEEP ON JUICIN'!

Cover illustration by Patrick Spaziente and Harvey Mercadoocasio with colors and seps by Josh D. Ray.

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